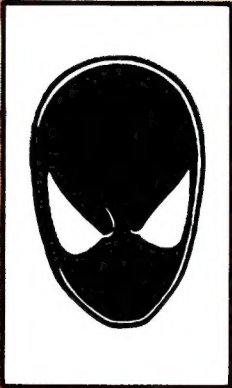




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AND HIS
NEW MUTANTS

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IT IS THE ESSENCE OF WHAT WE ARE
AND WERE AND WILL EVER BE.

IT IS THE BRAIN.

THIS ONE BELONGS TO A YOUNG MAN NAMED
DAVID CHARLES HALLER AND IT IS A
REALM WHERE MADNESS REIGNS.

SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE TWISTED, WAR-TORN
MINDSCAPE THAT IS A CRAZY-QUILT HODGEPODGE
BLEND OF PARIS AND BEIRUT ARE DAVID'S MOTHER,
HIS DOCTOR AND THREE NEW MUTANTS.

NEAR ITS HEART, STRUGGLING
WITH DESPERATE DETERMINA-
TION TO REACH IT AND, IF
POSSIBLE, SAVE HIM FROM HIM-
SELF, IS PROFESSOR CHARLES
XAVIER-- WHO IS MANY THINGS,
INCLUDING THE MUTANTS'
TEACHER AND MENTOR, BUT NOW,
MOST OF ALL, DAVID'S FATHER.

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TOM ORZECOWSKI
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HELPING HIM IS JACK WAYNE...

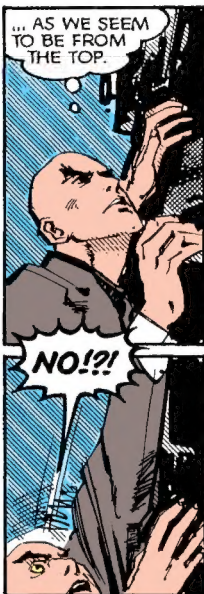
... ONE OF THE MORE DOMINANT OF DAVID'S MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES.



HOW YA DOIN', PROF?

MANAGING, JACK.

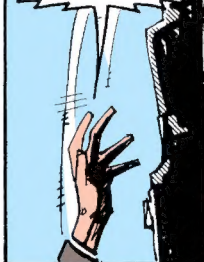
BARELY-- AT MY BEST, I WAS NEVER MORE THAN A MARGINAL CLIMBER. AND I AM AS FAR FROM THAT...



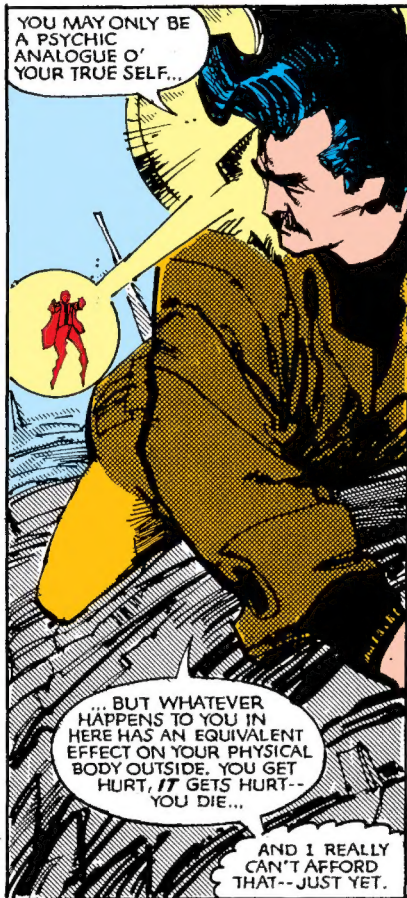
... AS WE SEEM TO BE FROM THE TOP.

NO!?!?

I SLIPPED!!!



CARELESS, FELLA.



YOU MAY ONLY BE A PSYCHIC ANALOGUE O' YOUR TRUE SELF...

... BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS TO YOU IN HERE HAS AN EQUIVALENT EFFECT ON YOUR PHYSICAL BODY OUTSIDE. YOU GET HURT, IT GETS HURT-- YOU DIE...

AND I REALLY CAN'T AFFORD THAT-- JUST YET.



THANK YOU, MY FRIEND.

DON'T MENTION IT.

INCREDIBLE-- EVERY TIME I LOOK, THE MOUNTAIN BECOMES HIGHER AND MORE IMPOSSIBLE TO CLIMB.

WARNED YOU. THAT DOME UP TOP IS THE SEAT OF DAVE'S CONSCIOUSNESS-- AN' THE ARAB'S CONTROL OVER THE MINDSCAPE.

HE AIN'T GONNA LET US WALTZ IN AN' KICK HIM OUT. HE'S GONNA FIGHT FOR HIS TURF, WITH EVERY WEAPON HE'S GOT!



YOU THINK THINGS HAVE BEEN ROUGH SO FAR? I GUARANTEE, CHARLES, THEY'RE GONNA GET A LOT WORSE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- YOU EVIDENTLY MANIFEST DAVID'S TELEKINETIC POWER, JACK. BY RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE THE PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF REALITY.

I CAN-- TO A POINT. BUT THIS AIN'T REALITY, IT ONLY LOOKS THAT WAY.

THE ARAB'S THE TELEPATH, HE'S GOT THE ACCESS TO DAVE'S THOUGHTS-- AN' THEY'RE WHAT MAKE THE RULES. INSIDE THE KID'S HEAD, HE'S GOD-- AN' THE ARAB'S HIS MASTER.



PROFESSOR XAVIER-- ?!?

COMPANY-- !?!

I KNOW, I SENSE THEIR THOUGHTS:

MY STUDENTS--
DANIELLE MOONSTAR,
RAHNE SINCLAIR AND
DOUGLAS RAMSEY.
MY DEAR FRIEND AND
COLLEAGUE, MOIRA
MacTAGGERT.

"DAVID'S MOTHER, GABRIELLE, AND ONE OTHER WHO SEEMS A PART OF THE BOY YET APART FROM HIM-- MUCH LIKE YOU, JACK..."

HEY!
WATCH
THE
MOUTH,
CHROMEY!

HIM 'N'
ME AIN'T
NOTHIN'
ALIKE!



SORRY ABOUT THAT, SIR. CYNDI FIGURES IT'S CLUTE TO BE TOUGH.

PROFESSOR, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU, I'VE BEEN SO SCARED--!
FOR ALL THAT SUPPOSED FEAR, RAHNE...

...YOU'VE DONE YOURSELF, AND ME, PROUD.

TALK ABOUT CRAZINESS-- WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR TRAIL, PROFESSOR. WE REACHED THE FOOT OF THIS MOUNTAIN AFTER DARK SO WE FIGURED TO GRAB A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP BEFORE MOVING ON.

WHEN WE WOKE, THOUGH, WE WERE WAY UP HERE WITH YOU!



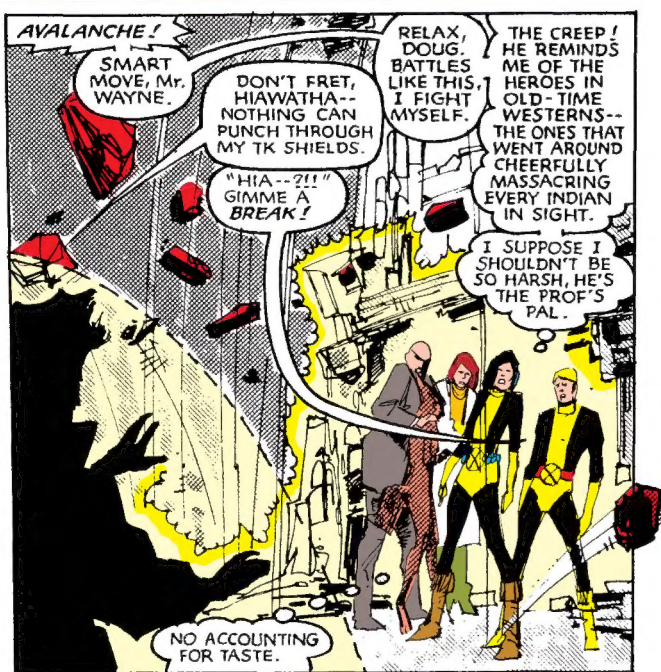
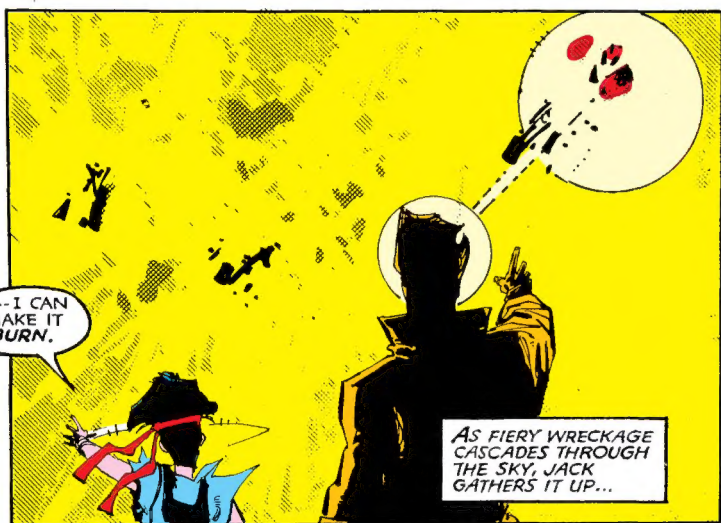
SEE, CHARLES, IT'S LIKE I SAID, THE ARAB RUNS THINGS.

HE HAS A NAME, Y'KNOW!

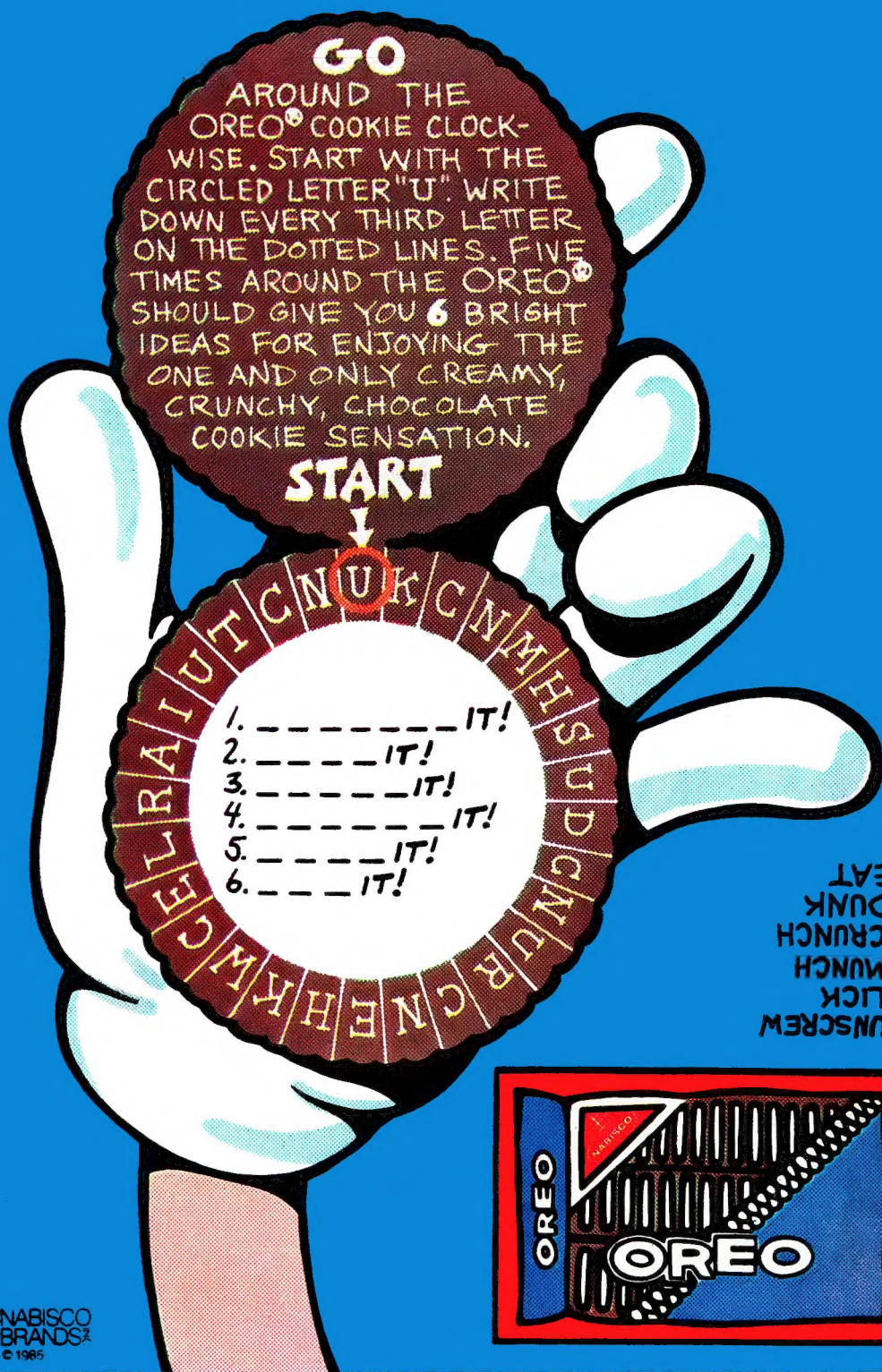
THAT'S WHY I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO YOUR BOY ANY GOOD, EITHER BY MYSELF OR WORKING WITH OTHERS LIKE CYNDI.

YO, FUZZY-- DO ME A FAVOR AN' BITE THIS SUCKER, WILLYA?

DON'T CARE WHERE, SO LONG AS IT HURTS.



HOW MANY BRIGHT OREO® COOKIE IDEAS CAN YOU COME UP WITH?





JACK! I APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE BUT YOU CAN NO LONGER THINK AND ACT SOLELY FOR YOURSELF, WE ARE A TEAM. WE MUST POOL OUR RESOURCES, PULL TOGETHER, OR WE'RE QUITE PROBABLY DOOMED!

THE SAME APPLIES TO YOU, CYNDI!



CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE DARLIN' LITTLE BRAT, CHARLES...

...BUT I GET THE MESSAGE.



YUCK! THESE LAMOS ARE TURNIN' INTO NO FUN AT ALL!

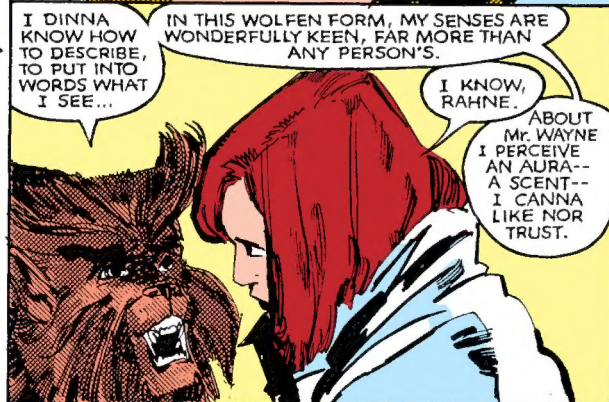
'CEPT MAYBE FOR BLONDIE --HE'S GOT POTENTIAL.

WOLFIE, TOO, IF YOU'RE INTO FLEAS.

I DON'T HAVE--!!!

MUMMY, ARE THE PROFESSOR AND Mr. WAYNE FRIENDS?

CERTAINLY APPEARS THAT WAY, POPPET-- WHY?

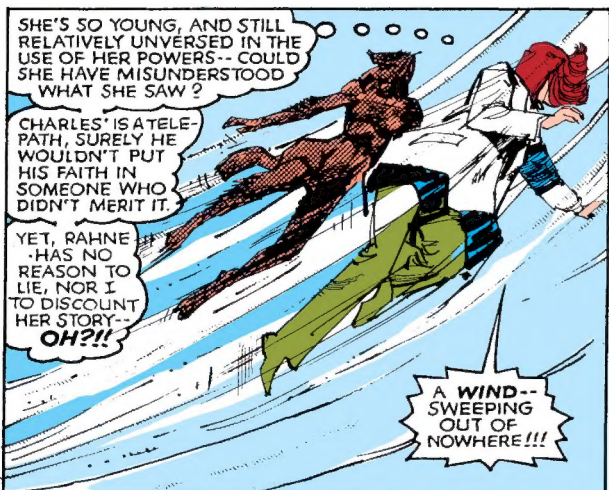


I DINNA KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE, TO PUT INTO WORDS WHAT I SEE...

IN THIS WOLFEN FORM, MY SENSES ARE WONDERFULLY KEEN, FAR MORE THAN ANY PERSON'S.

I KNOW, RAHNE.

ABOUT Mr. WAYNE I PERCEIVE AN AURA-- A SCENT-- I CANNALIKE NOR TRUST.



SHE'S SO YOUNG, AND STILL RELATIVELY UNVERSED IN THE USE OF HER POWERS-- COULD SHE HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT SHE SAW?

CHARLES' IS A TELEPATH, SURELY HE WOULDN'T PUT HIS FAITH IN SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T MERIT IT.

YET, RAHNE --HAS NO REASON TO LIE, NOR I TO DISCOUNT HER STORY-- OH?!!

A WIND-- SWEEPING OUT OF NOWHERE!!!

"Etagramulfabetz"

(THE TASTE THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD.)



"Reese's Pieces" are the only words he knows in our language, but he's working on "great peanut butter taste."

WITH THE GALE
COMES TORRENTIAL,
DRIVING RAIN...

... PLUS LOWERING
CLOUDS THAT TURN
THE DAY DARK AS
MIDNIGHT, THE
ONLY ILLUMINATION
COMING FROM EYE-
SEARING BOLTS
OF LIGHTNING.

THE STORM'S
TOO **FIERCE!**
WE DARE NOT
CLIMB, IT'S
CERTAIN
DEATH!

WE'RE STUCK
ON THIS LEDGE
TILL THE
WEATHER
BREAKS!

IF IT
EVER
DOES!

THIS HURRICANE IS NO ACCIDENT,
Dr. MacTAGGERT--

YAWWW!!

CRIPES!

JUST WHAT WE NEED--
WATCH YOURSELVES,
EVERYBODY, WE JUST
GOT OUR EVICTION
NOTICE!

SPIKES--
GROWING
FROM THE
BODY O' THE
MOUNTAIN!

SOME CHOICE-- EITHER WE
LET OURSELVES GET FORCED
OUT INTO THE STORM...

...OR WE GET
SKEWERED.

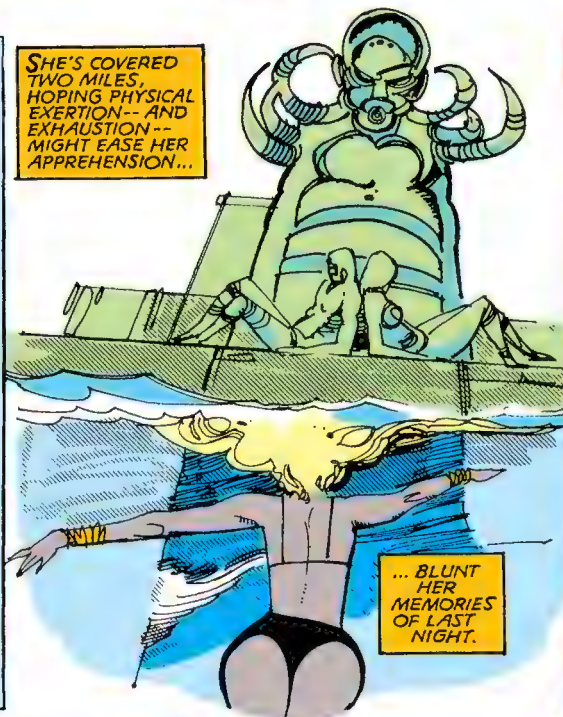
AN OCEAN AWAY...

...ON AN ISLAND HIDDEN IN THE HEART OF THE INFAMOUS BERMUDA TRIANGLE...

...IN A CITY FAR OLDER THAN HUMAN CIVILIZATION...

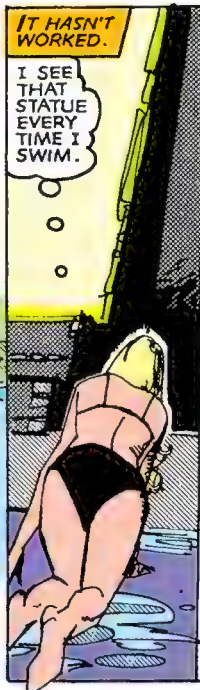


...ALEYTYS FORRESTER DOES HER MORNING LAPS.



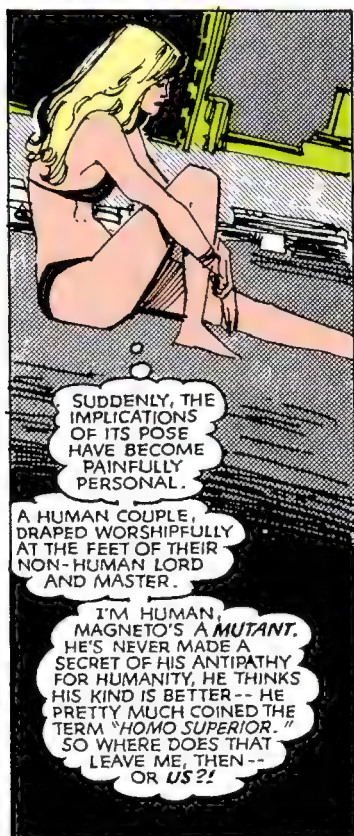
SHE'S COVERED TWO MILES, HOPING PHYSICAL EXERTION-- AND EXHAUSTION-- MIGHT EASE HER APPREHENSION...

...BLUNT HER MEMORIES OF LAST NIGHT.



IT HASN'T WORKED.

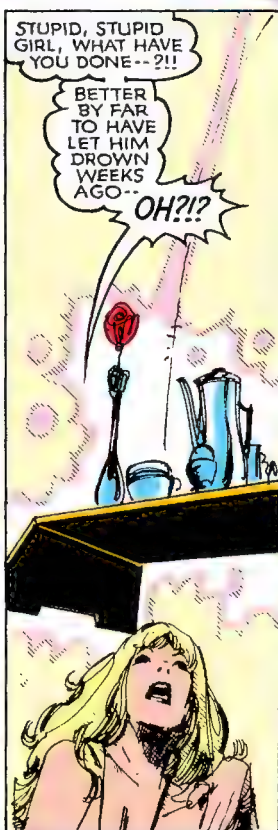
I SEE THAT STATUE EVERY TIME I SWIM.



SUDDENLY, THE IMPLICATIONS OF ITS POSE HAVE BECOME PAINFULLY PERSONAL.

A HUMAN COUPLE, DRAPED WORSHIPFULLY AT THE FEET OF THEIR NON-HUMAN LORD AND MASTER.

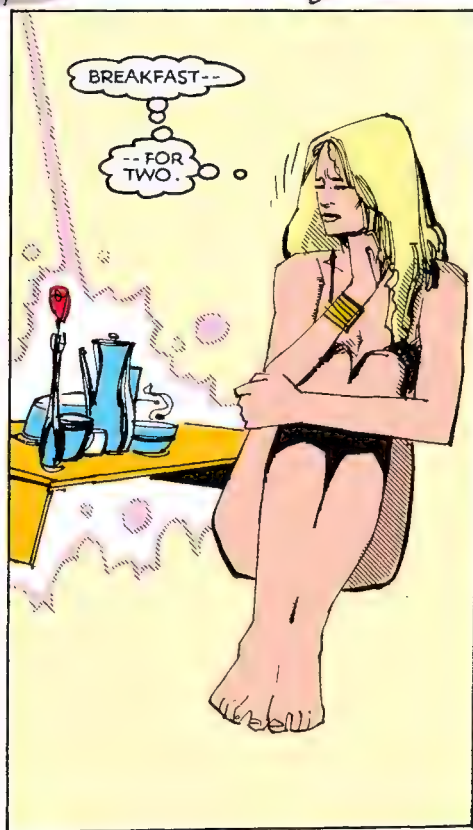
I'M HUMAN, MAGNETO'S A MUTANT. HE'S NEVER MADE A SECRET OF HIS ANTIPATHY FOR HUMANITY, HE THINKS HIS KIND IS BETTER-- HE PRETTY MUCH COINED THE TERM "HOMO SUPERIOR." SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME, THEN-- OR US?!



STUPID, STUPID GIRL, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE--?!!

BETTER BY FAR TO HAVE LET HIM DROWN WEEKS AGO--

OH?!!



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My name is _____

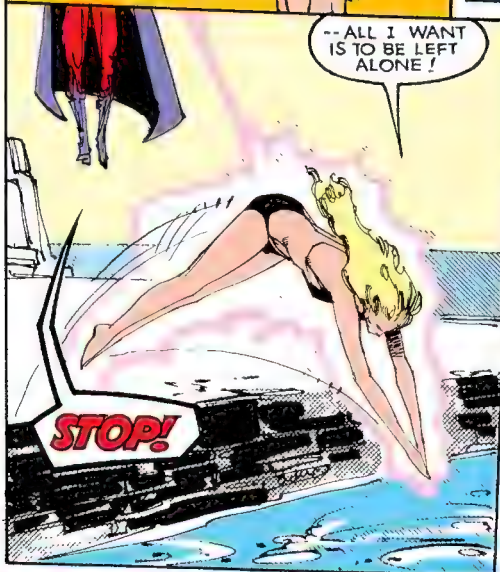
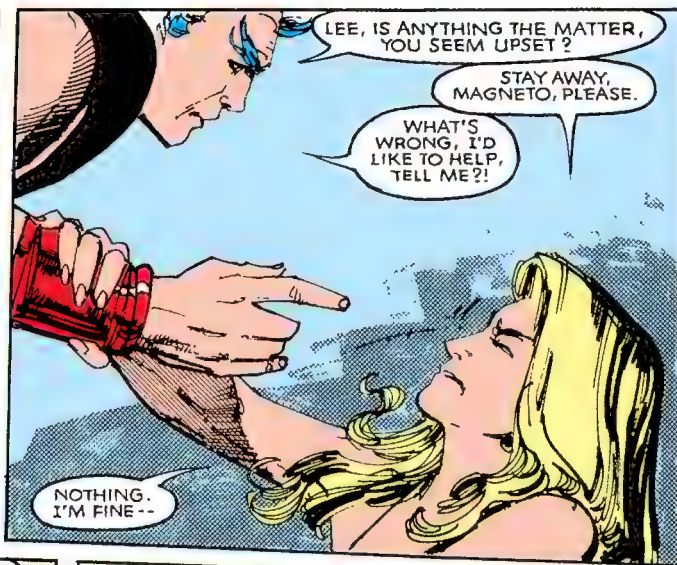
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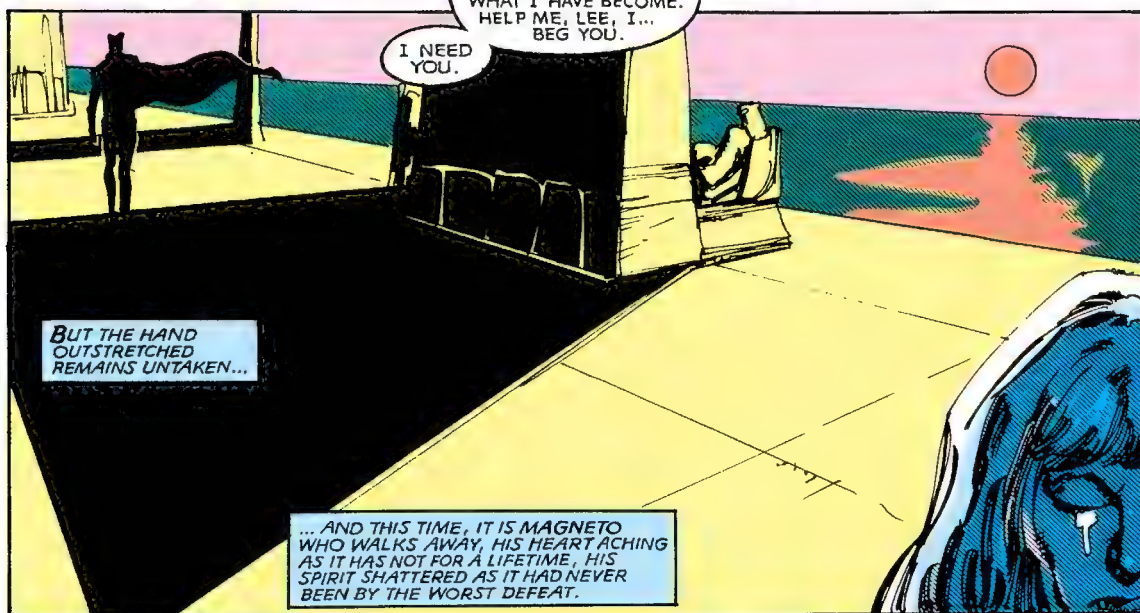
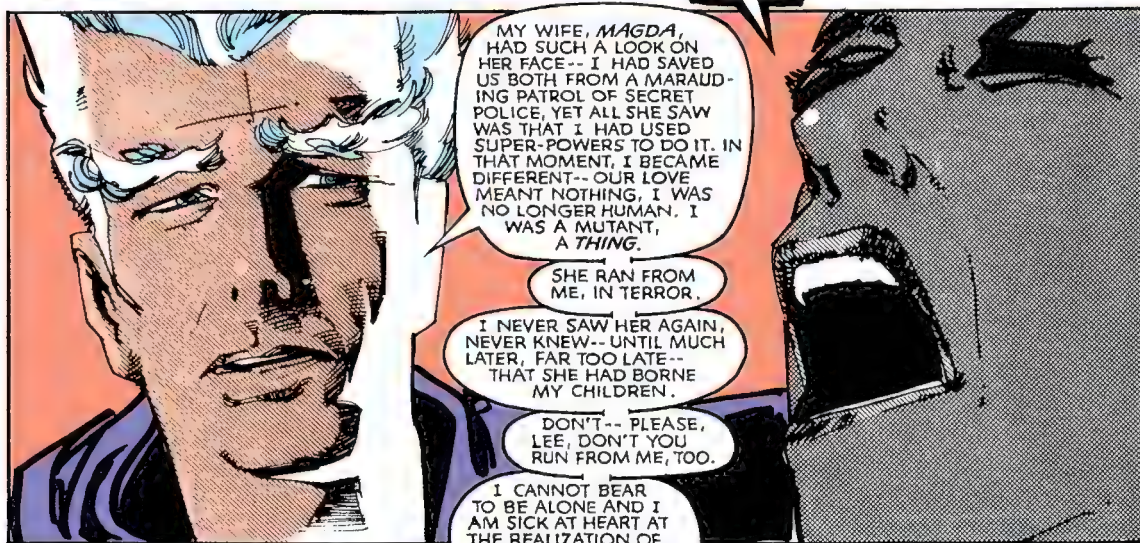
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MEANWHILE...

...IN DAVID HALLER'S BRAIN...

...THE SITUATION WORSENS BY THE SECOND.

IF ANYONE'S INTERESTED, WE'RE RUNNING OUTTA ROOM!

WE'RE AWARE OF THAT, DOUGLAS.

RAHNEY--?! YOU SOUND AWFUL!

I FEEL WORSE-- I HATE THIS WEATHER!

COFF CHOO

STICK CLOSE, HUNK, I'LL KEEP YOU NICE'N' ROASTY-TOASTY WARM!

GREAT.

POOR DOUGLAS-- BUT I HOPE THE ATTRACTION CYNDI FEELS FOR HIM WILL PERSUADE HER TO AID US WHEN THE TIME COMES.

WE'RE OFF THE LEDGE, PROF, BUT I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO BUCK THIS STORM AN' FLY US TO THE MOUNTAINTOP-- I DOUBT I CAN EVEN KEEP US ALOFT MUCH LONGER.

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, JACK.

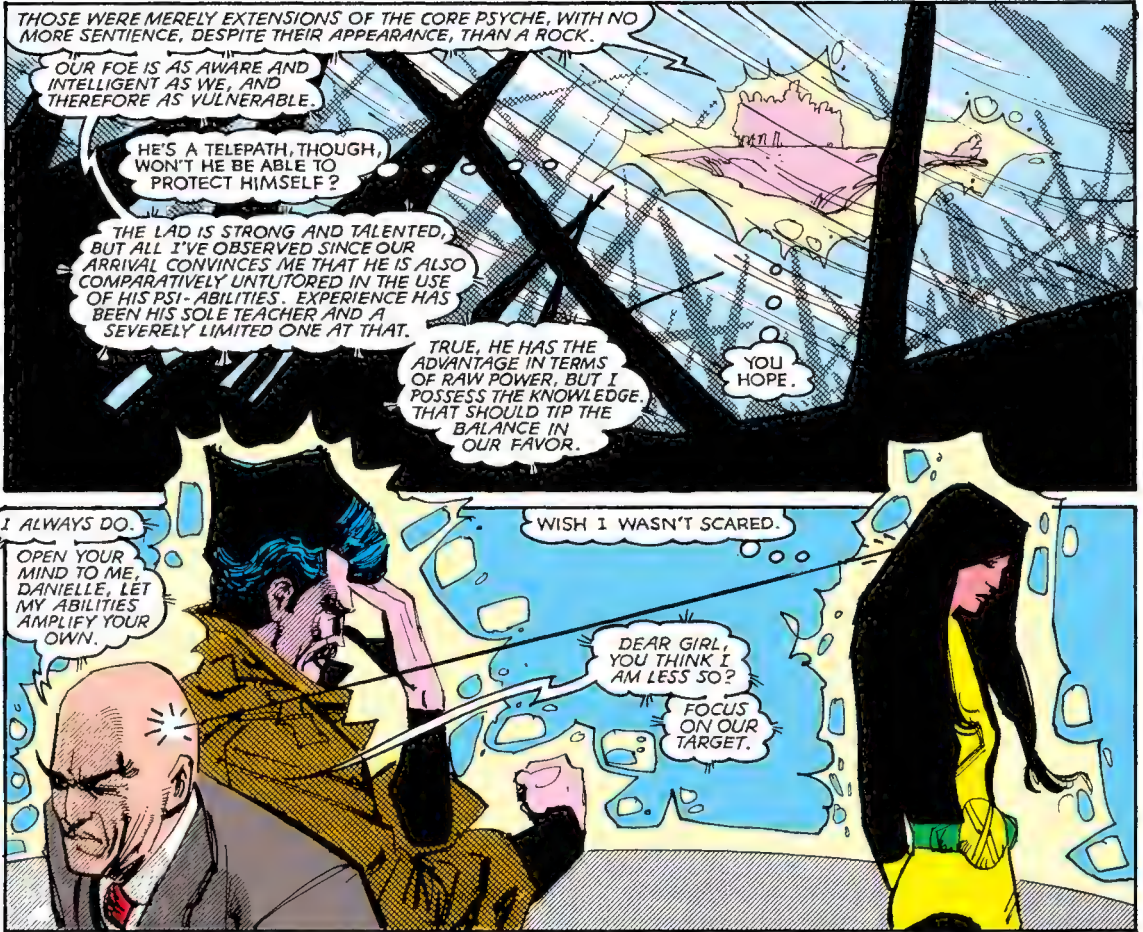
DANIELLE, YOUR POWER WILL SPEAR-HEAD OUR ATTACK.

AND YOU NEEDN'T WORRY UNDULY ABOUT RAHNE. HER WOLFEN INCARNATIONS ARE FAR MORE RESILIENT TO INJURIES AND DISEASE THAN OUR HUMAN BODIES-- SHE LOOKS FAR MORE WRETCHED THAN SHE ACTUALLY IS.

THANK YOU, SIR-- BUT, PROFESSOR, MY SPIRIT-FORMS HAD NO EFFECT ON ANY OF THE OTHER CRITTERS WE'VE FACED SO FAR, WHY SHOULD THINGS BE ANY DIFFERENT AGAINST THE ARAB?!

CHOO

CHOO



THOSE WERE MERELY EXTENSIONS OF THE CORE PSYCHE, WITH NO MORE SENTIENCE, DESPITE THEIR APPEARANCE, THAN A ROCK.

OUR FOE IS AS AWARE AND INTELLIGENT AS WE, AND THEREFORE AS VULNERABLE.

HE'S A TELEPATH, THOUGH, WON'T HE BE ABLE TO PROTECT HIMSELF?

THE LAD IS STRONG AND TALENTED, BUT ALL I'VE OBSERVED SINCE OUR ARRIVAL CONVINCES ME THAT HE IS ALSO COMPARATIVELY UNTUTORED IN THE USE OF HIS PSI-ABILITIES. EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN HIS SOLE TEACHER AND A SEVERELY LIMITED ONE AT THAT.

TRUE, HE HAS THE ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF RAW POWER, BUT I POSSESS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SHOULD TIP THE BALANCE IN OUR FAVOR.

YOU HOPE.

I ALWAYS DO.

OPEN YOUR MIND TO ME, DANIELLE, LET MY ABILITIES AMPLIFY YOUR OWN.

WISH I WASN'T SCARED.

DEAR GIRL, YOU THINK I AM LESS SO?

FOCUS ON OUR TARGET.



HE KNOWS THAT, SOONER OR LATER, THEY WILL COME AND TRY THEIR BEST TO DESTROY HIM.

HIS NAME IS JEMAIL KARAMI.

COME WHAT MAY, HE IS DETERMINED TO SURVIVE.



BUT THEN--

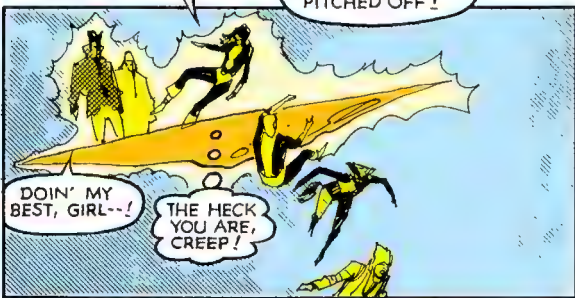
< THE TEACHER -- AND HIS GIRL PUPIL ! >

NOW, DANIELLE-- STRIKE, WITH ALL OUR COMBINED STRENGTH!



THE ENTIRE
MINDSCAPE--
EVERYTHING'S
GOING TOPSY-
TURVY--

--MR. WAYNE,
HOLD THE
PLATFORM STEADY,
WE'RE BEING
PITCHED OFF!



DOIN' MY
BEST, GIRL--!

THE HECK
YOU ARE,
CREEP!



WHA-- OOPS!!
I THOUGHT
WE WERE MILES
ABOVE THE GROUND--
BUT IT WAS ONLY A
COUPLE OF FEET!

Ouch!



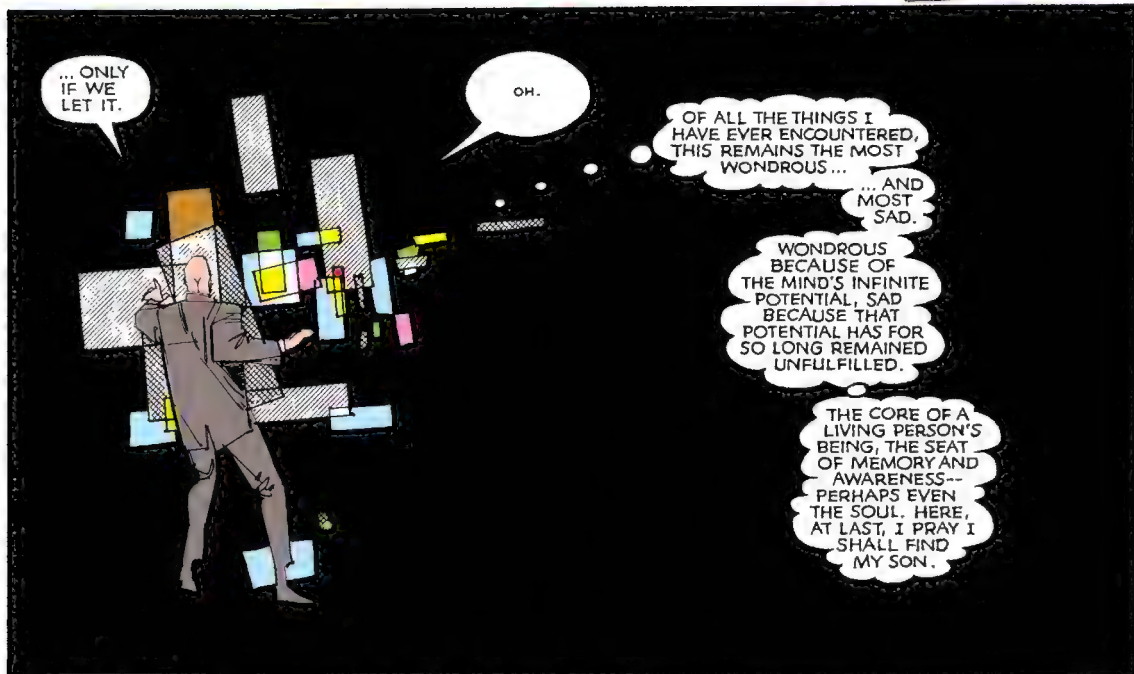
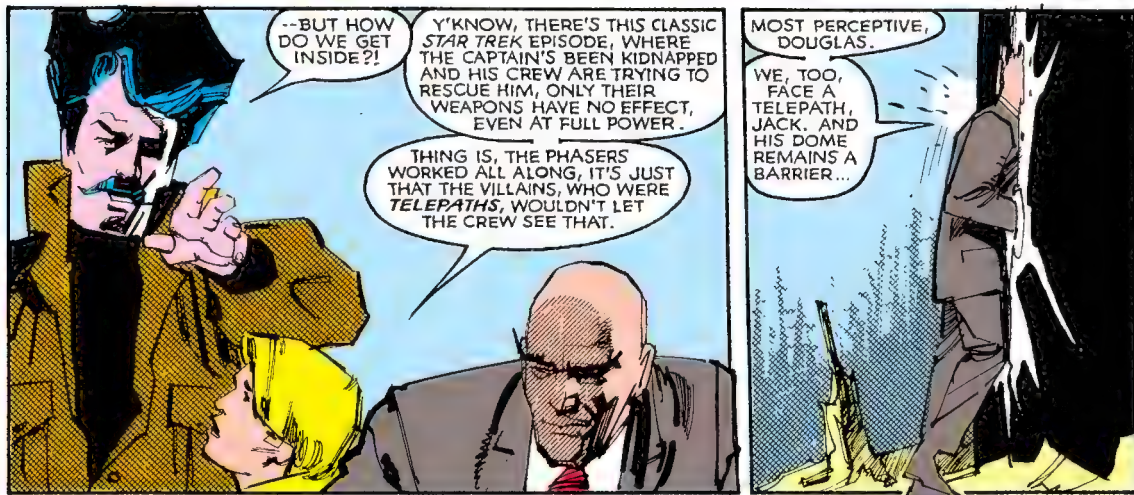
OTHERS HAVE PUSHED
THEIR LUCK TOO FAR
WITH ME, CYNDI.

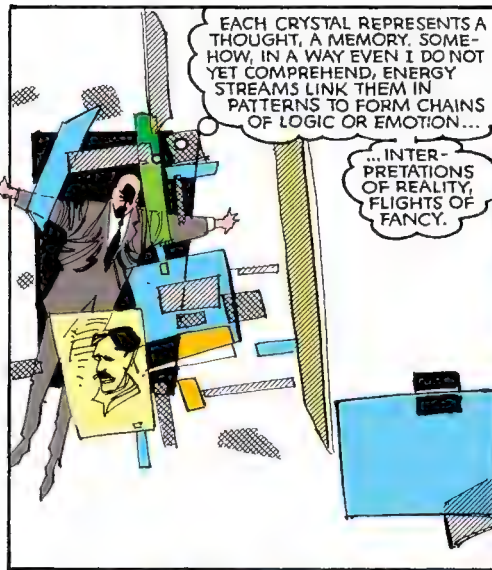
DO YOURSELF
A BIG FAVOR--
REMEMBER
WHAT HAPPENED
TO THEM.

WAY TO GO,
BIG GUY--
JEMMY FAKED
YOU OUT BUT
GOOD!

HEY-O, LIKE, I'M
TERRIFIED, JACK, REALLY!

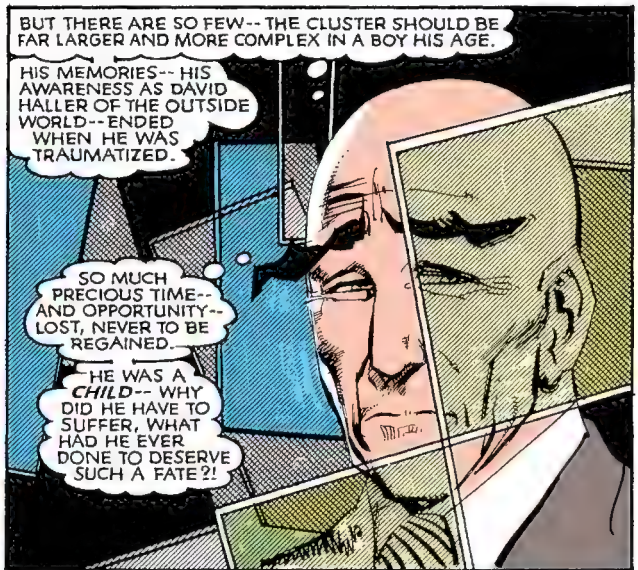
I'VE A FEELIN', LASS, YOU SHOULD BE.





EACH CRYSTAL REPRESENTS A THOUGHT, A MEMORY. SOMEHOW, IN A WAY EVEN I DO NOT YET COMPREHEND, ENERGY STREAMS LINK THEM IN PATTERNS TO FORM CHAINS OF LOGIC OR EMOTION...

...INTER-
PRETATIONS
OF REALITY,
FLIGHTS OF
FANCY.

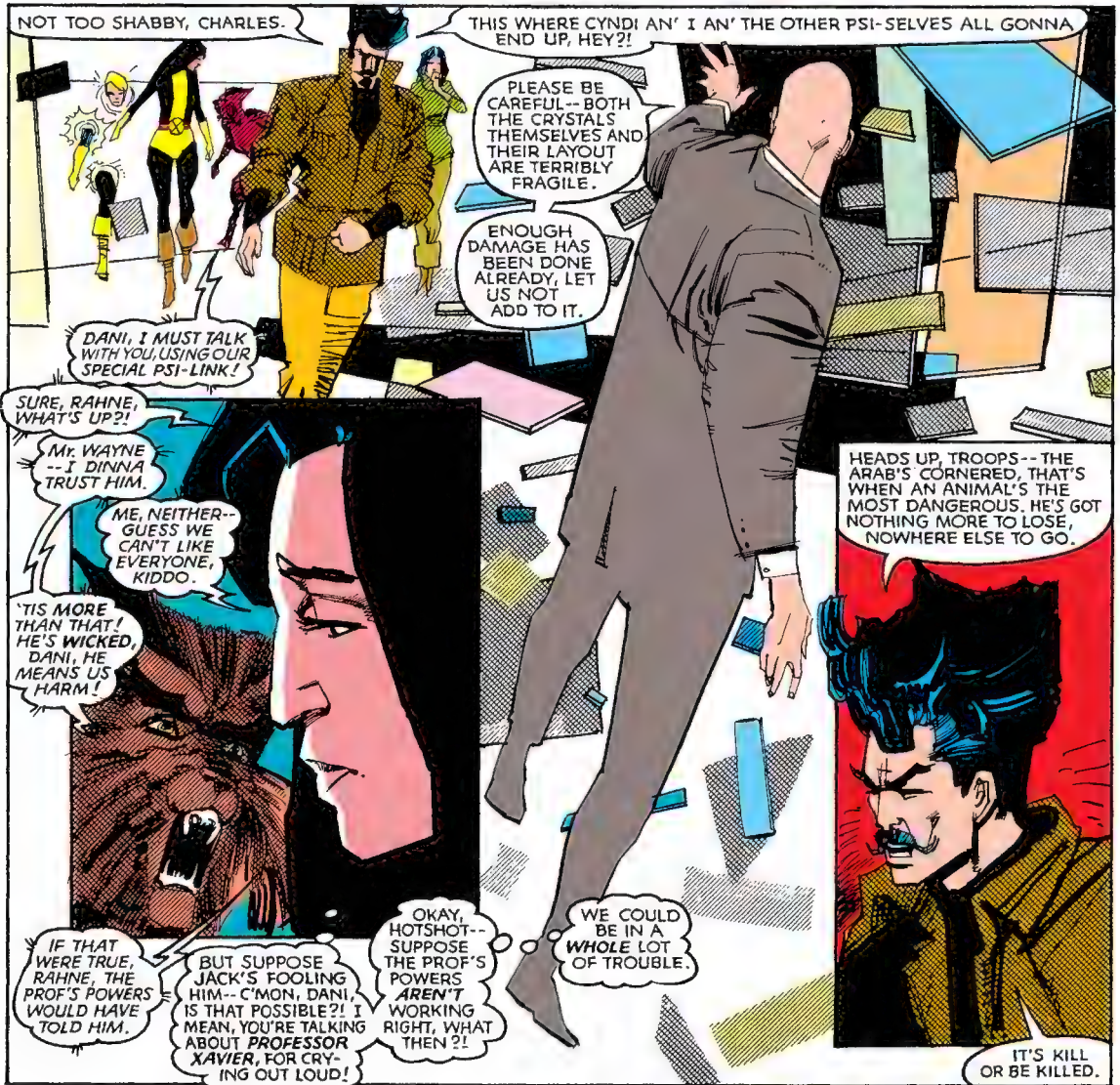


BUT THERE ARE SO FEW-- THE CLUSTER SHOULD BE FAR LARGER AND MORE COMPLEX IN A BOY HIS AGE.

HIS MEMORIES-- HIS AWARENESS AS DAVID HALLER OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD-- ENDED WHEN HE WAS TRAUMATIZED.

SO MUCH
PRECIOUS TIME--
AND OPPORTUNITY--
LOST, NEVER TO BE
REGAINED.

HE WAS A
CHILD-- WHY
DID HE HAVE TO
SUFFER, WHAT
HAD HE EVER
DONE TO DESERVE
SUCH A FATE?!



NOT TOO SHABBY, CHARLES.

THIS WHERE CYNDI AN' I AN' THE OTHER PSI-SELVES ALL GONNA END UP, HEY?!

PLEASE BE
CAREFUL-- BOTH
THE CRYSTALS
THEMSELVES AND
THEIR LAYOUT
ARE TERRIBLY
FRAGILE.

ENOUGH
DAMAGE HAS
BEEN DONE
ALREADY, LET
US NOT
ADD TO IT.

DANI, I MUST TALK
WITH YOU, USING OUR
SPECIAL PSI-LINK!

SURE, RAHNE,
WHAT'S UP?!

MR. WAYNE
-- I DINNA
TRUST HIM.

ME, NEITHER--
GUESS WE
CAN'T LIKE
EVERYONE,
KIDDO.

'TIS MORE
THAN THAT!
HE'S WICKED,
DANI, HE
MEANS US
HARM!

IF THAT
WERE TRUE,
RAHNE, THE
PROF'S POWERS
WOULD HAVE
TOLD HIM.

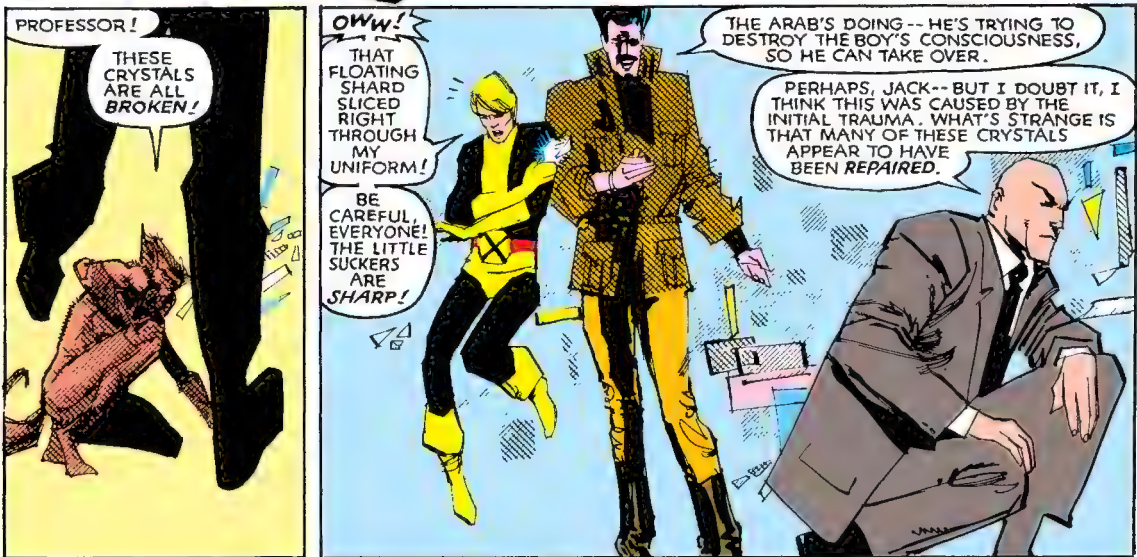
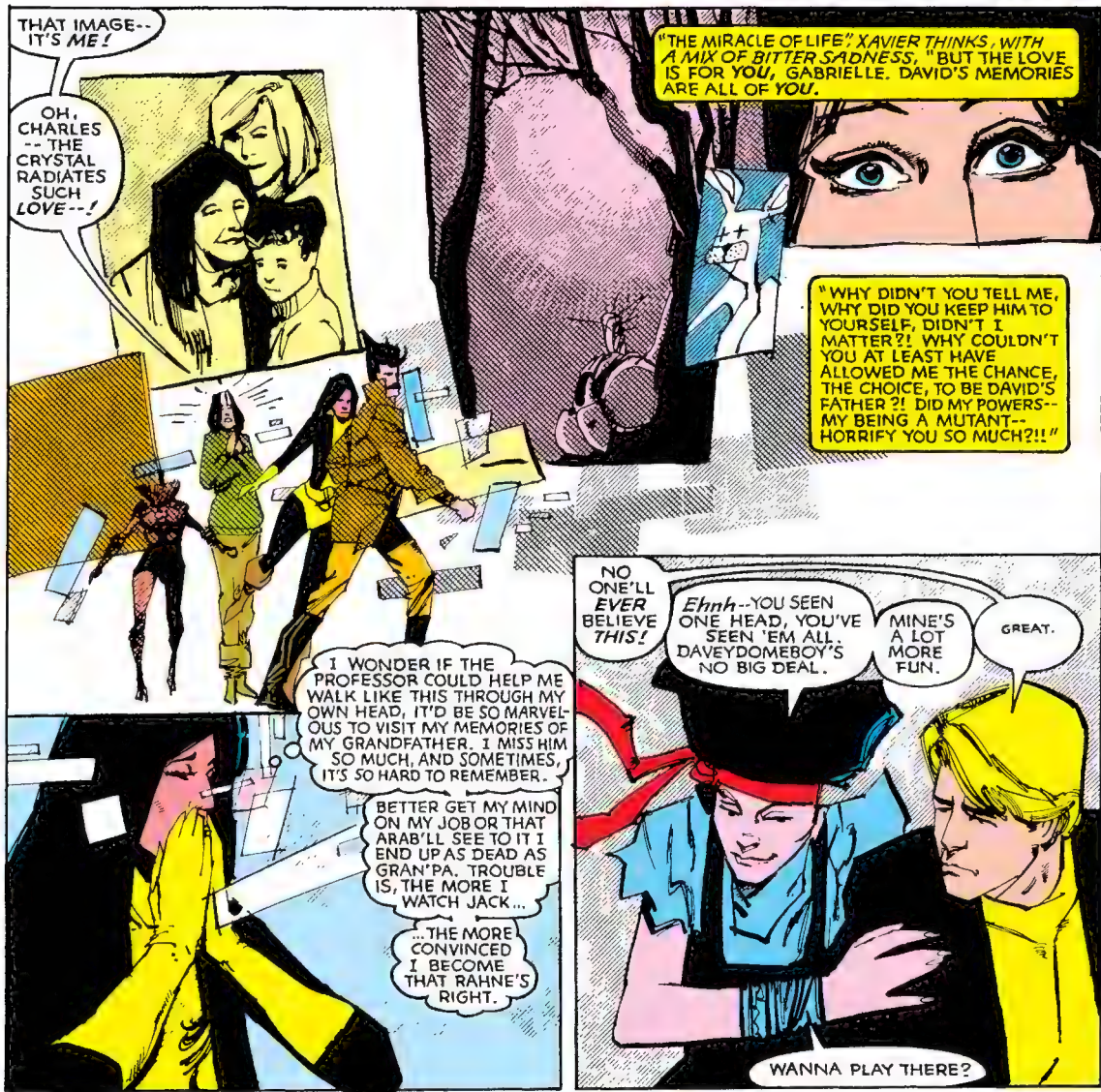
BUT SUPPOSE
JACK'S FOOLING
HIM-- C'MON, DANI,
IS THAT POSSIBLE?! I
MEAN, YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT PROFESSOR
XAVIER, FOR CRY-
ING OUT LOUD!

OKAY,
HOTSHOT--
SUPPOSE
THE PROF'S
POWERS
AREN'T
WORKING
RIGHT, WHAT
THEN ?!

WE COULD
BE IN A
WHOLE LOT
OF TROUBLE.

HEADS UP, TROOPS-- THE ARAB'S CORNERED, THAT'S WHEN AN ANIMAL'S THE MOST DANGEROUS. HE'S GOT NOTHING MORE TO LOSE, NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.

IT'S KILL
OR BE KILLED.



ONLY A TELEPATH COULD DO THAT, BUT THE ONLY SUCH PSI PRESENT IS JEMAIL, THE ARAB YOUTH. WHY WOULD HE TRY TO HEAL SOMEONE HE SUPPOSEDLY HATES?! WHY NOT SIMPLY DO WHAT JACK SAID...

...SHATTER ALL THE CRYSTALS AND REPLACE DAVID'S PSYCHE WITH HIS OWN?!

COULD I HAVE BEEN WRONG ABOUT THE LAD?!!

CHARLES--
LOOK!!

CASCADING OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMES ANOTHER CRYSTAL CLUSTER-- FAR LARGER AND MORE COMPLEX THAN DAVID'S-- IN THE CENTER OF WHICH IS THE SHRIEKING, FLAILING FORM OF JEMAIL KARAMI.

BEFORE ANYONE CAN REACT, THE TWO PSYCHIC BODIES CRASH TOGETHER. CRYSTALS ARE KNOCKED FROM THEIR NORMAL, SERENE ORBITS-- SOME ARE BROKEN, SPRAYING SHRAPNEL IN EVERY DIRECTION.

NONE SAVE JACK-- WHO, DANI NOTES GRIMLY, CHOOSES TO PROTECT HIMSELF ALONE WITH A TELEKINETIC FORCE FIELD-- ESCAPE UNSCATHED.

CYNDI TRIES TO TORCH THOSE PIECES HEADING HER WAY, TO NO AVAIL-- HER FIERCEST FLAMES DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST EFFECT. SHE'S NEVER BEEN HURT BEFORE, THE PAIN IS WORSE THAN ANYTHING SHE'S EVER EXPERIENCED AND SHE CAN'T HOLD BACK HER SCREAMS.

TO HIS AMAZEMENT, IGNORING HIS OWN WOUNDS, DOUG SPRINGS AT ONCE TO HER AID.

AT THE SAME TIME-- AS NEARBY AS SHE IS FAR AWAY-- GABRIELLE HALLER STUMBLES FACE-TO-FACE WITH A NIGHTMARE AS TERRIBLE AS ANY IN HER OWN TRAGIC, TORMENTED PAST.

SHE SEES HER HOME IN PARIS, THAT FATEFUL DAY NINE YEARS AGO...

...HER DEAREST FRIEND-- DAVID'S GODFATHER -- DANIEL SHOMRON...

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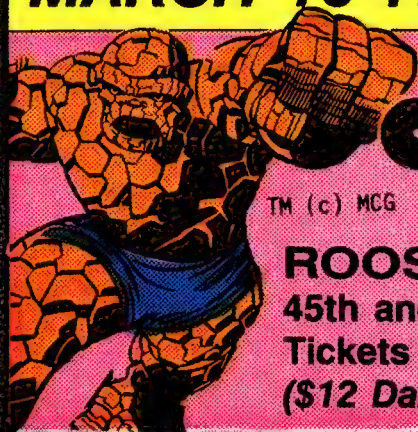
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... AND JEMAIL'S ASSASSINATION TEAM...

... COME TO KILL EVERY ISRAELI THEY COULD FIND.

DANIEL DIED IMMEDIATELY, AND DAVID WOULD HAVE...

... HAD HIS TERROR NOT CATALYZED HIS LATENT PSI-POWERS.

IN A SPLIT-SECOND, DAVID INCINERATED THE BRAINS OF HIS WOULD-BE MURDERERS. BUT AS HE DID, HE ALSO-- FOR THAT INSTANT-- MERGED MINDS WITH EACH OF HIS VICTIMS, ACTUALLY BECAME THEM, FELT THEIR THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS, AT THE MOMENT OF THEIR DEATHS.

THAT WAS THE TRAUMA WHICH SHATTERED HIS OWN PSYCHE-- A GENTLE, LOVING BOY FORCED SUDDENLY TO KILL-- AND INTO THAT VOID WAS SUCKED JEMAIL, SLAIN YET IMMEDIATELY REBORN.

KILL HIM, GABY!

IT'S WHAT YOU WANT-- WHAT HE DESERVES-- KILL THE ARAB!!

--MAY GOD ROT YOUR BUTCHER'S SOUL!

GABY, NO!

FILTHY, STINKING ANIMAL--

YOU MUSTN'T DO THIS!

LET ME GO!

NOBODY KILLS, NOBODY DIES, DO YOU HEAR?!

NOBODY!

CHARLES-- BEHIND YOU!

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next list is published.

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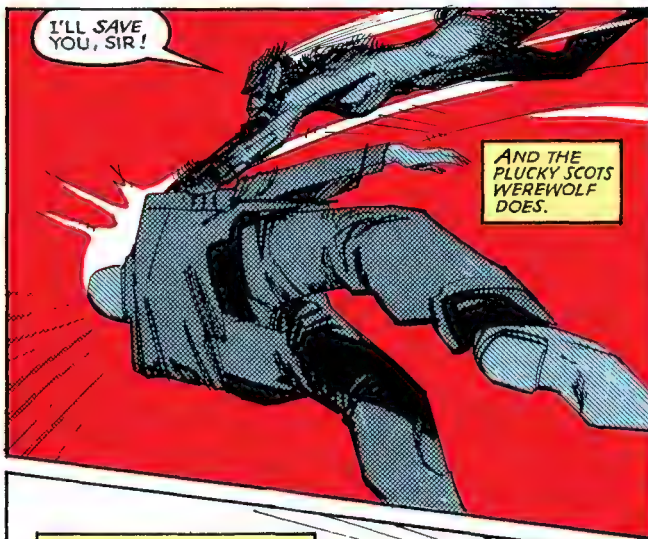
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I'LL SAVE YOU, SIR!

AND THE PLUCKY SCOTS WEREWOLF DOES.



BUT, WITH XAVIER SEEMINGLY OUT OF HARM'S WAY, HE SCREAMS--

-- AS IF MIND AND HEART AND SOUL WERE BEING RIPPED FROM HIM.

THAT TERRIBLE CRY FREEZES RAHNE IN HER TRACKS...

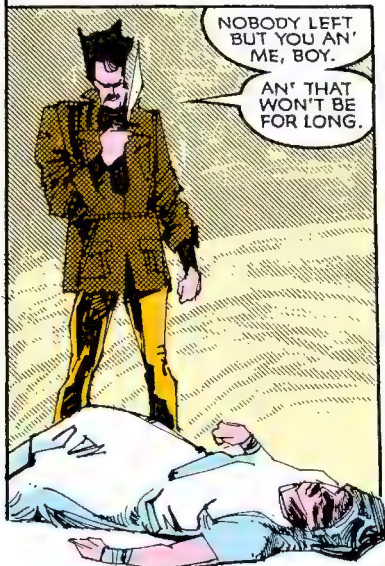
... AND SHE HAS NO CHANCE TO HELP HER TEACHER A SECOND TIME AS THE JAGGED CRYSTAL SWARM TWISTS AROUND IN MID-FLIGHT AND CRASHES INTO THEM.



NEW YORK CITY--

-- THE HELLFIRE CLUB...

YOU HAVE A REASON FOR THIS MEETING, Mr. De La ROCHA, BEYOND THE OBVIOUS?



NOBODY LEFT BUT YOU AN' ME, BOY.

AN' THAT WON'T BE FOR LONG.



MY TIME IS TOO VALUABLE TO WASTE WITH BOYS.

PEOPLE DO NOT ADDRESS ME IN SUCH A MANNER.

I KNOW. WITH YOUR EMPATHIC POWER-- OH YES, MANUEL, I'M AWARE OF THAT LITTLE TALENT-- YOU COULD MANIPULATE MY EMOTIONS TO MAKE ME FEEL ANYTHING.



BUT IT'S GONE, ISN'T IT? YOUR HEADMISTRESS-- EMMA FROST, THE WHITE QUEEN-- TOOK IT AWAY AND WON'T GIVE IT BACK UNTIL YOU PROVE YOU'LL BEHAVE YOURSELF.

I WANT REVENGE-- AGAINST HER AND CHARLES XAVIER AS WELL!

THAT'S A PAIR OF VERY DANGEROUS ENEMIES.

NO LESS SO THAN I.



THESE PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOSSIERS ARE OF TWO OF XAVIER'S NEW MUTANTS--MAGMA AND SUNSPOT--YOU REPRESENT THE GLADIATORS. I OFFER THEM TO YOU AS POTENTIAL COMBATANTS.

MOST INTRIGUING. I'LL PASS ALONG YOUR PROPOSITION TO MY EMPLOYER. IF HE ACCEPTS, YOU'LL BE SUITABLY REWARDED.

I ONLY WISH I COULD BE THERE TO SEE THEM SLAUGHTER EACH OTHER IN YOUR ARENA.

"MY DEAR MANUEL, THAT'S VERY EASILY ARRANGED--AND SOONER THAN YOU THINK."

MEANWHILE, BACK IN DAVID'S BRAIN...

THAT WAYNE GUY-- HE'S TRYING TO KNIFE THE ARAB!

LEAVE HIM ALONE!

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, PUNK!

WHOULNF!

SHOWING YOUR TRUE COLORS, Mr. WAYNE?

I'M TRYING, HIAWATHA, TO SAVE YOUR COLLECTIVE BUTTS--

--IF YOU'LL LET ME!

SURPRISE, WHITE EYES-- I THINK YOU'RE LYING!

SHE HAS NO IDEA WHAT SHE'LL FIND WHEN SHE MANIFESTS A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF JACK'S DEEPEST, MOST PRIMAL FEAR--IT TURNS OUT TO BE XAVIER, THE LOVING FATHER, AND A BOY WHO CAN ONLY BE THE DAVID THAT ONCE WAS.

THE MEREST SIGHT OF THEM SENDS JACK CRINGING AND CRYING INTO THE SHADOWS.

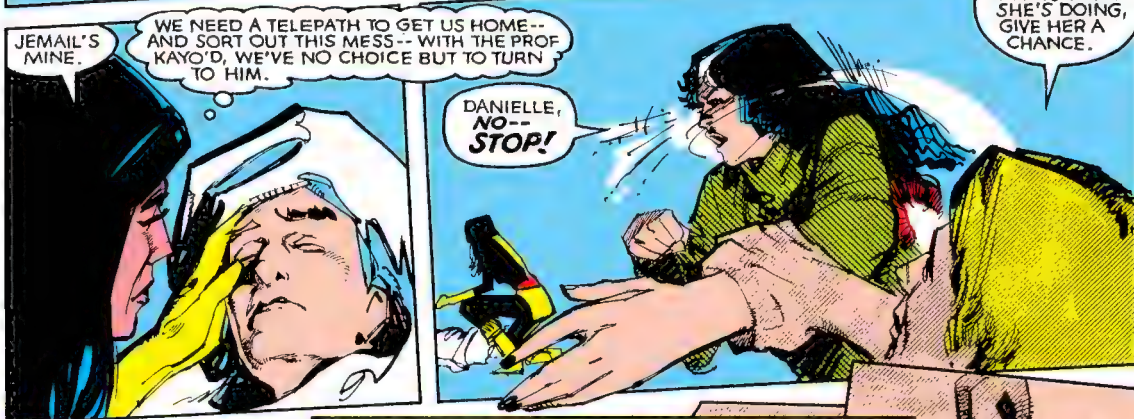


THAT WAS EFFECTIVE--
AND GOOD RIDDANCE!

Dr. MacTAGGERT, RAHNE ISN'T WELL--
I SENSE IT THROUGH OUR RAPPORT-- IS
THE PROF ANY BETTER?!

THEY'RE BOTH BADLY
HURT. THEY MUST BE
RESTORED TO THEIR
PHYSICAL BODIES AS
QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

MS. HALLER,
SEE TO DOUG,
HE'S WAKING
UP!

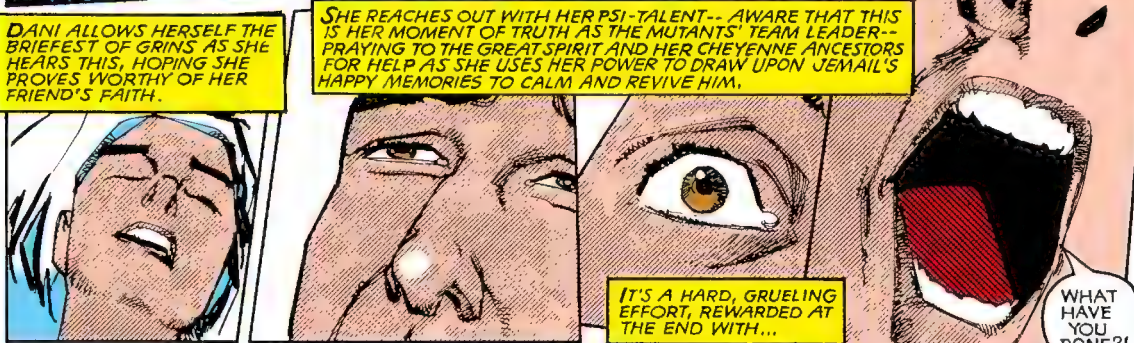


JEMAL'S
MINE.

WE NEED A TELEPATH TO GET US HOME--
AND SORT OUT THIS MESS-- WITH THE PROF
KAYO'D, WE'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO TURN
TO HIM.

DANIELLE,
NO--
STOP!

SHE
KNOWS WHAT
SHE'S DOING,
GIVE HER A
CHANCE.



DANI ALLOWS HERSELF THE
BRIEFEST OF GRINS AS SHE
HEARS THIS, HOPING SHE
PROVES WORTHY OF HER
FRIEND'S FAITH.

SHE REACHES OUT WITH HER PSI-TALENT-- AWARE THAT THIS
IS HER MOMENT OF TRUTH AS THE MUTANTS' TEAM LEADER--
PRAYING TO THE GREAT SPIRIT AND HER CHEYENNE ANCESTORS
FOR HELP AS SHE USES HER POWER TO DRAW UPON JEMAL'S
HAPPY MEMORIES TO CALM AND REVIVE HIM.

IT'S A HARD, GRUELING
EFFORT, REWARDED AT
THE END WITH...

WHAT
HAVE
YOU
DONE?!



HOWEVER, AFTER
HER EXPLANATION...

WHY'D IT
TAKE YOU
SO LONG TO
LEARN
ENGLISH?

UNLIKE CYNDI
AND JACK, DOUG'S
CONSCIOUSNESS
WAS OPEN TO ME.

FROM DOUGLAS, I
ABSORBED THE KNOW-
LEDGE WHILE HIS
TRANSLATING TALENT
WAS TEACHING HIM
ARABIC-- IT JUST TOOK
A LOT LONGER FOR ME
TO ASSIMILATE IT.

"YOU WERE
TRYING TO
HEAL MY
SON?!"

YES, AMBASSADOR,
UNLIKELY AS
THAT MAY SEEM.

AT FIRST, I HATED
HIM-- FOR WHAT HE WAS,
WHAT HE REPRESENTED,
WHAT HE'D... DONE. DEATH
I'D BEEN PREPARED
FOR, NOT THIS.

WHAT A DISASTER-- YEARS OF WORK
AND EFFORT, SEPARATING THE IMAGES
AND ELEMENTS OF MY SELF FROM
DAVID'S, REPAIRING THE DAMAGE.

THERE HE IS.

AND NEARBY-- TOM CORSI AND SHARON FRIEDLANDER, THE FIRST TWO OF US ZAPPED INTO DAVID'S MIND.*

I'VE BEEN HELPING THEM, TOO, AS BEST I COULD.

*IN NM #26 -- AnnN.

AS I REGAINED MY OWN SENSE OF SELF-IDENTITY, I FOUND I'D ASSUMED DAVID'S TELEPATHIC TALENT.

OF COURSE, HIS WAS THE FIRST MIND I READ.

I LEARNED HOW KIND AND GENTLE AND INNOCENT A SOUL HE WAS.

THEN, I EXPLORED HIS MOTHER'S THOUGHTS, AND THOSE OF OTHERS, AND WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE CAME AN UNDERSTANDING, A GROWING ENLIGHTENMENT OF SPIRIT THAT MY HATRED COULD NOT WITHSTAND.

SO, I RESOLVED TO PUT THINGS RIGHT. DAVID'S PSYCHE HAD SPLINTERED INTO SCORES OF PSI-SELVES AND I BEGAN COLLECTING AND RE-INTEGRATING THEM INTO THE CORE SELF. SOME RESISTED AND ONE IN PARTICULAR PROVED DANGEROUSLY HOSTILE.

I FOUND MYSELF IN A RACE AGAINST TIME. DAVID'S ABILITIES WERE MANIFESTING THEMSELVES IN THE "REAL" WORLD. I HAD TO COMPLETE MY TASK BEFORE HE GOT TOTALLY OUT OF CONTROL.

ALL THAT WORK--I WAS SO CLOSE, I REALLY THOUGHT I HAD WON-- FOR NOTHING. IT'LL TAKE TOO LONG TO REPEAT THE PROCESS AND IN THE MEANTIME HE COULD CAUSE UNTOLD HARM. I'VE NO CHOICE, I'LL HAVE TO ASSUME PERMANENT CONTROL.

MAYBE NOT.

THE PROF'S UNCONSCIOUS-- NO USE TO US-- BUT WHAT ABOUT A TELEKINETIC TO SHUNT THE CRYSTALS BACK INTO THEIR PROPER PLACES?

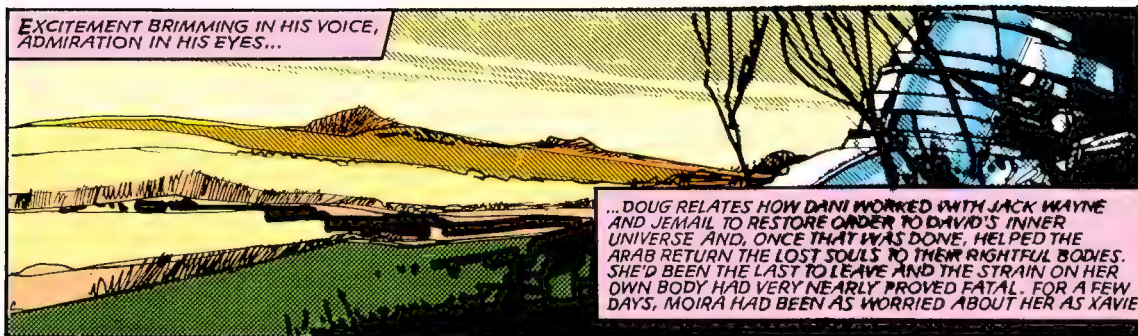
COULD YOU WORK IN TANDEM WITH JACK?

THAT MAKES SENSE-- BUT DO YOU TRUST HIM?

NO MORE'N I DO YOU, PAL.



EXCITEMENT BRIMMING IN HIS VOICE,
ADMIRATION IN HIS EYES...

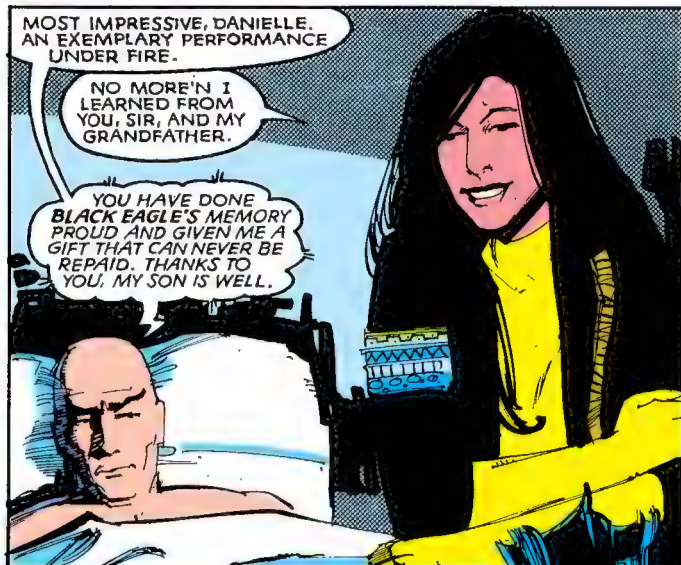


...DOUG RELATES HOW DANI WORKED WITH JACK WAYNE AND JEMAIL TO RESTORE ORDER TO DAVID'S INNER UNIVERSE AND, ONCE THAT WAS DONE, HELPED THE ARAB RETURN THE LOST SOULS TO THEIR RIGHTFUL BODIES. SHE'D BEEN THE LAST TO LEAVE AND THE STRAIN ON HER OWN BODY HAD VERY NEARLY PROVED FATAL. FOR A FEW DAYS, MOIRA HAD BEEN AS WORRIED ABOUT HER AS XAVIER.

MOST IMPRESSIVE, DANIELLE.
AN EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE
UNDER FIRE.

NO MORE'N I
LEARNED FROM
YOU, SIR, AND MY
GRANDFATHER.

YOU HAVE DONE
BLACK EAGLE'S MEMORY
PROUD AND GIVEN ME A
GIFT THAT CAN NEVER BE
REPAID. THANKS TO
YOU, MY SON IS WELL.



MUCH LATER,
WHEN XAVIER'S
RECOVERED
ENOUGH
TO WALK...

GABY?

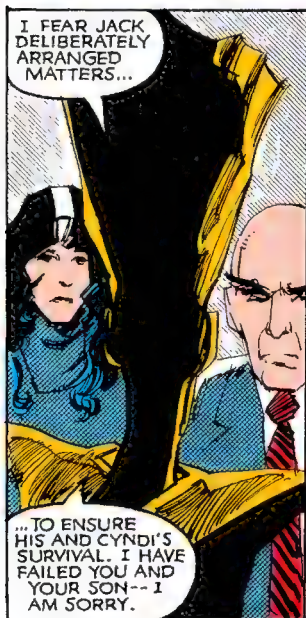
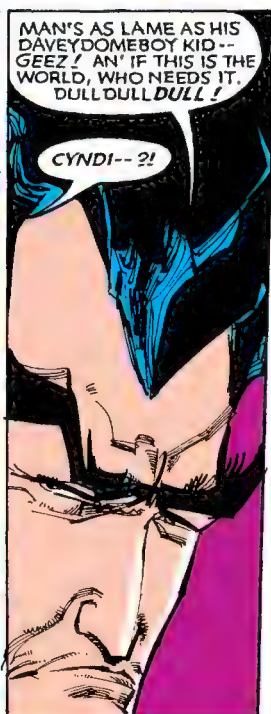
I... DON'T
WISH TO
INTRUDE...

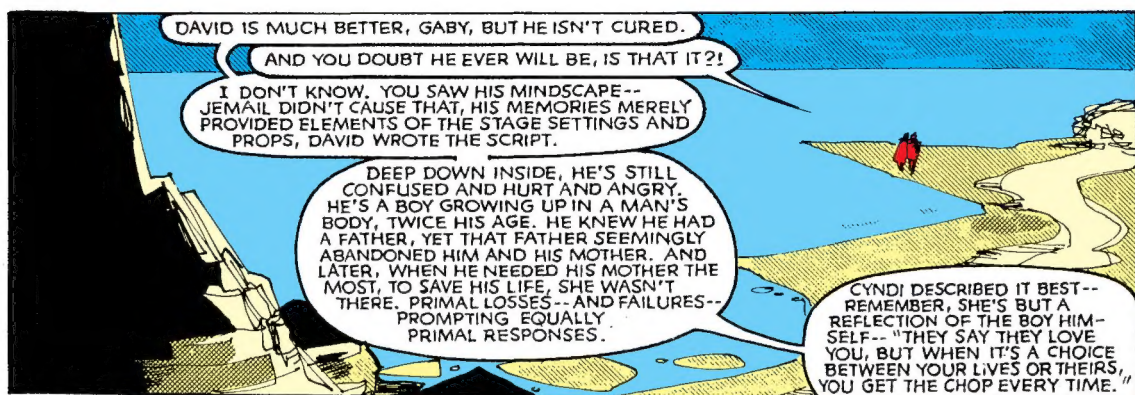


DAVID--

-- YOUR
FATHER'S
HERE.







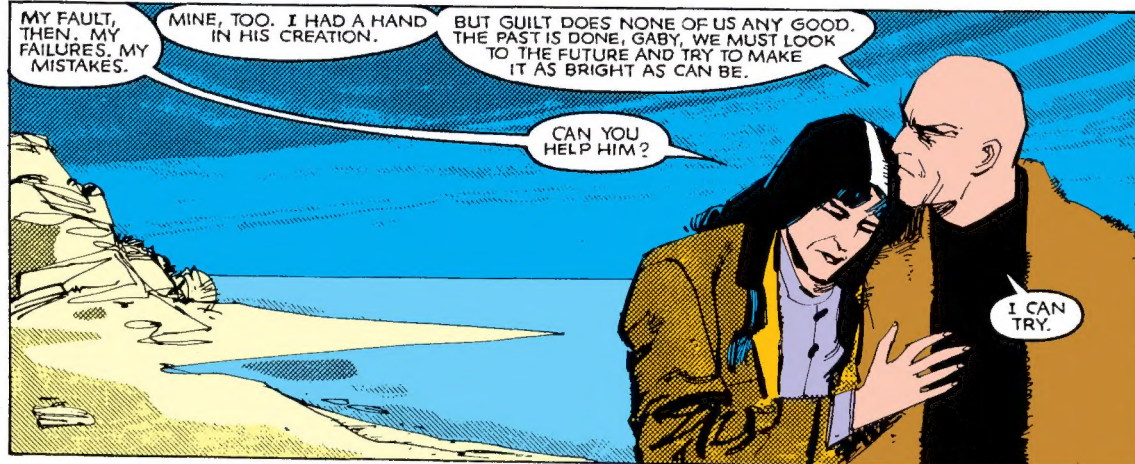
DAVID IS MUCH BETTER, GABY, BUT HE ISN'T CURED.

AND YOU DOUBT HE EVER WILL BE, IS THAT IT?!

I DON'T KNOW. YOU SAW HIS MINDSCAPE-- JEMAIL DIDN'T CAUSE THAT, HIS MEMORIES MERELY PROVIDED ELEMENTS OF THE STAGE SETTINGS AND PROPS, DAVID WROTE THE SCRIPT.

DEEP DOWN INSIDE, HE'S STILL CONFUSED AND HURT AND ANGRY. HE'S A BOY GROWING UP IN A MAN'S BODY, TWICE HIS AGE. HE KNEW HE HAD A FATHER, YET THAT FATHER SEEMINGLY ABANDONED HIM AND HIS MOTHER. AND LATER, WHEN HE NEEDED HIS MOTHER THE MOST, TO SAVE HIS LIFE, SHE WASN'T THERE. PRIMAL LOSSES--AND FAILURES--PROMPTING EQUALLY PRIMAL RESPONSES.

CYNDI DESCRIBED IT BEST-- REMEMBER, SHE'S BUT A REFLECTION OF THE BOY HIMSELF-- "THEY SAY THEY LOVE YOU, BUT WHEN IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN YOUR LIVES OR THEIRS, YOU GET THE CHOP EVERY TIME."



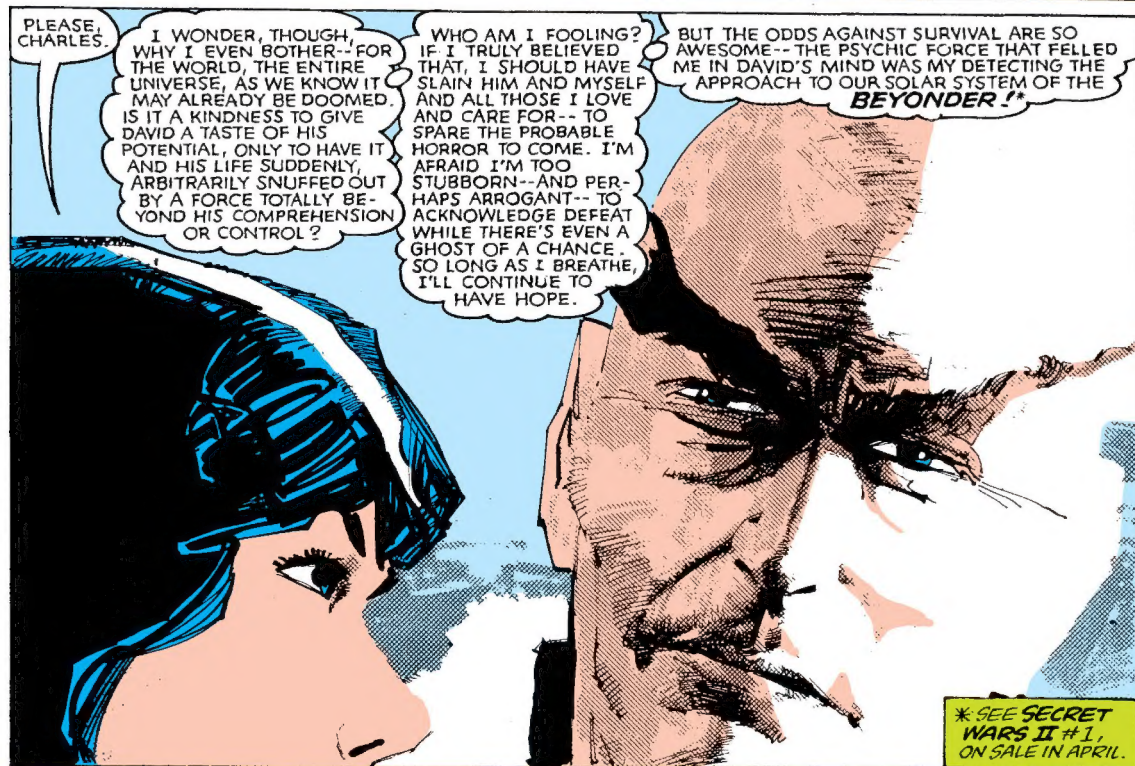
MY FAULT, THEN. MY FAILURES. MY MISTAKES.

MINE, TOO. I HAD A HAND IN HIS CREATION.

BUT GUILT DOES NONE OF US ANY GOOD. THE PAST IS DONE, GABY, WE MUST LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND TRY TO MAKE IT AS BRIGHT AS CAN BE.

CAN YOU HELP HIM?

I CAN TRY.



PLEASE, CHARLES.

I WONDER, THOUGH, WHY I EVEN BOTHER-- FOR THE WORLD, THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, AS WE KNOW IT MAY ALREADY BE DOOMED. IS IT A KINDNESS TO GIVE DAVID A TASTE OF HIS POTENTIAL, ONLY TO HAVE IT AND HIS LIFE SUDDENLY, ARBITRARILY SNUFFED OUT BY A FORCE TOTALLY BEYOND HIS COMPREHENSION OR CONTROL?

WHO AM I FOOLING? IF I TRULY BELIEVED THAT, I SHOULD HAVE SLAIN HIM AND MYSELF AND ALL THOSE I LOVE AND CARE FOR-- TO SPARE THE PROBABLE HORROR TO COME. I'M AFRAID I'M TOO STUBBORN--AND PERHAPS ARROGANT-- TO ACKNOWLEDGE DEFEAT WHILE THERE'S EVEN A GHOST OF A CHANCE. SO LONG AS I BREATHE, I'LL CONTINUE TO HAVE HOPE.

BUT THE ODDS AGAINST SURVIVAL ARE SO AWESOME-- THE PSYCHIC FORCE THAT FELLED ME IN DAVID'S MIND WAS MY DETECTING THE APPROACH TO OUR SOLAR SYSTEM OF THE **BEYONDER!**

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He's a gonna
be *OKAY!*

I think...



CHAS 20